

Indiana gives 305 species as the number thus far actually known to occur in the State, and a 'Hypothetical List' of 79 species, "which have been taken in neighboring States, or whose known range seems to include Indiana." Both lists have evidently been prepared with great care, and are very satisfactorily annotated, the previously published records of the capture of the rarer species within the State being duly cited. The annotations throw much new light on the distribution of many of the species within the State. The introduction gives the origin of the present Catalogue, a brief account of the leading topographical features of the State, a transcript of 'An Act for the Protection of Birds, their Nests and Eggs' (closely modelled after the New York law), passed in March last by the State Legislature, and due acknowledgments for aid in the preparation of the work. This is followed by a 'Bibliography' of Indiana ornithology (pp. 10-14), and a list is also given (pp. 117-119) of persons contributing notes used in the preparation of the Catalogue. The author also states that through the coöperation of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Chief of the Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy of the United States Department of Agriculture, he was "enabled to examine the migration reports, covering the State of Indiana for a series of years." The illustrations consist of a large number of cuts from Coes's 'Key to North American Birds,' secured through the courtesy of the publishers of that well-known work. A very full index (pp. 121-135) very fittingly closes this admirable and exceedingly welcome exposition of Indiana ornithology.—J. A. A.

Colburn and Morris's 'Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts.\*'—This briefly annotated list of 212 species forms a convenient résumé of the bird life of the region considered. The list "contains the names of the birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, so far as they are known to the authors, either by personal observation or from consulting the works of the ornithologists who have described the birds of New England"; but as these works are not cited in the annotations, it is not always evident whether the statements made rest on the authority of the authors of the present paper or on previously published records. Hence it is sometimes difficult to distinguish whether or not a record or statement is here for the first time recorded. As the authors state that the list was prepared "for their own use, and not for general publication," perhaps we should be lenient in our criticism, yet we can hardly refrain from calling attention to one or two points, in the interest of sound work. We regret to see that some species are admittedly included that may, on "further observation," require "elimination." These are presumably given on the authority of others, and probably on previously published records, but unless so stated in the list the responsibility rests on its authors. Some of the omissions from the list are hard to explain,

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\*The Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts. By Wm. W. Colburn and Robert O. Morris. 16 mo. pp. 24. Springfield, Mass., 1891. (Privately printed.)

except on the ground of haste or carelessness, since they are duly recorded on unquestionable authority in the works referred to by the authors in their preface,—*e. g.*, *Picoides arcticus*, *Otocoris alpestris*, *Empidonax flaviventris*, *Quiscalus quiscula cæneus*, *Ammodramus henslowi*, *Melospiza lincolni*, *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*, *Sciurus motacilla*, *Anthus pennsylvanicus*, etc. *Larus argentatus* should of course be *L. argentatus smithsonianus*. The list is attractively gotten up, and is remarkably free from typographical errors; yet it is marred by a blemish one would hardly look for in a scientific publication of the present day, namely, the use of capital initial letters for *all* specific and subspecific names. Evidently the authors allowed their own good judgment to be swayed by the bad counsels of the printer.—J. A. A.

**Merriam's List of Birds observed in Idaho.\***—The ornithological results of Dr. Merriam's 'Biological Reconnoissance of south-central Idaho' during the season of 1890, consists of an annotated list of 158 species, 94 of them recorded for the first time for the State, and the discovery of a new Owl, allied to *Megascops flammcolus*, and named *M. flammcolus idahoensis*. This new form differs from *M. flammcolus* in being smaller and paler. A well-executed colored plate accompanies the description. Besides the general list there is a special 'List of Birds noted in the Saw Tooth Mountains, at or near Saw Tooth or Alturas Lake, September 25 to October 4, 1890' (pp. 19, 20), numbering 43 species, and various references to birds of particular localities in the general introduction.

As stated by Dr. Merriam, Idaho has thus far remained a veritable *terra incognita*, so far as detailed knowledge of its natural history is concerned, less being known of it than of any other State or Territory in the Union. The present report on the work done there during the season of 1890 occupies about 120 octavo pages (North American Fauna, No. 5), of which about 30 are devoted to an exposition of the physical characters and life zones of the region explored, and about 60 to a detailed report on the mammals obtained, of which 12 of the 67 species here enumerated are described as new. It is needless to say that much light is thrown upon the physical features of the region and their relation to its faunal and floral characteristics. Considering the limited time spent in field work and the small force of assistants employed, a surprisingly large amount of work was accomplished.—J. A. A.

**Maynard's 'Contributions to Science.'**†—The 'Contributions' contain articles relating to nearly all branches of natural history. Only the fol-

\*Annotated List of Birds observed in Idaho during the Summer and Fall of 1890, with Notes on Species previously recorded from the State. By Dr. C. Hart Merriam. North American Fauna, No. 5, July 1890, pp. 89-108.

†Contributions to Science. By Charles J. Maynard. Illustrated with hand-colored plates, drawn on stone by the Author. Vol. I, "April, 1889-Jan. 1890." Newtonville, Mass.: Published by the Author. 8vo. pp. 204, pl. xvi. with numerous cuts in the text. [No. 3, dated "October, 1889," was received March 24, 1890; No. 4, dated "January, 1890," was received April 2, 1891.]